

Sooy Place
Near Red Lion, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Sooy Place
Near Red Lion, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Julius A. Melcer

Date of Erection: First section about 1770

Architect:

Builder: Probably Nicholas Sooy

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - local sand-
stone to grade level;
brick to sill

Exterior walls - frame
construction, random
width beaded weather-
boards, brick lined

Interior walls - original
unit unplastered, exposed
timbers and brick paning
whitewashed, partitions
of random width boards;
two later parts plaster
on split lath

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The progenitor of the Sooy family in America
was Joost¹ who came from Holland about 1705. Woodward

states that he was a German, but Mr. Irvin Sooy of Philadelphia, who has written the genealogy of his family, claims that Joost was born in Holland about 1685 probably of French parents. Joost¹ Sooy moved with his family to Monmouth County about 1715. The journal of the governor and council shows that in the year 1719 Joost Sooy of Monmouth County was naturalized a citizen of the province of New Jersey. Shortly after this he moved to Lower Bank, Burlington County, where his tombstone records he died September 28, 1737.

It is claimed that Joost¹ and his son Joost² purchased large tracts of land in Washington Township. The deeds at Trenton and Mt. Holly show purchases made by the Sooy family in Northampton and Washington Townships. The house now stands in Tabernacle Township; although cut out of other later created townships; it was originally in Northampton and Washington Townships. Nicholas², the eldest son of Joost¹, is the forefather of the Sooy of Old Gloucester, now Atlantic County. Joost² married Elizabeth Smith, a Quakeress, by whom he had twelve children; one of these was Nicholas³ born 1747. He married Sarah Seers by whom he had ten children. We believe that Nicholas³ built the original portion of this house, although it might have been built by Rever Elton. We base this assumption on the fact that on March 25, 1810 Rever Elton sold a two hundred and fifty acre plot of land to Nicholas Sooy that had a tavern on it. This may or may not be the piece where this building now stands. The deed gives no roads by which we can tell exactly where the piece was. However, the Sooy family claims that the tavern was built by one of their ancestors somewhere around the time of the Revolutionary War.

Nicholas³ had a son Josephus⁴, born January 23, 1786 and died April 17, 1865. We know from the search of the records at Mt. Holly that the building in question stands on property owned by him and that it was given to him by his father. The property passed to Josephus⁵ N. Sooy, his son, who sold it to Benjamin

Woodruff on September 18, 1866. There are nine transfers recorded between that date and 1939 when A. Engle Haines, sheriff, gave title to the present owner, Julius A. Melcer.

This building was built at three different times. The earliest section was the one built as the tavern and is more primitive in type. This portion had two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. The next addition contains one room on the first floor and one room on the second. The last unit contains two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor.

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Walter E. Ratt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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